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PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Victor G. Heiser, chief quarantine officer of the Philippine Islands, reports, March 28:

Decrease of Cholera.

The Philippines are probably more free of cholera to-day than has been the case for a number of years past. For the entire week only 12 cases were reported for the islands, and on some days no cases were reported. A determined effort is being made by the bureau of health to isolate every case promptly in order to ascertain whether the disease can be stamped out completely, and at the same time learn with more or less certainty whether the disease is endemic or whether it must be reintroduced from a foreign country to start a new outbreak.

Beriberi.

In view of the recent results reported by Fraser and Stanton of the Straits Settlements, Aron of the Philippine Medical School, and others before the meeting of the Far Eastern Association of Tropical Medicine recently held in Manila, that beriberi is due to the continuous consumption of polished rice as a staple article of diet, and that the direct cause of this is probably due to the lack of phosphorous which is removed by the polishing, and that beriberi is probably a phosphorus starvation, the beriberi patients in the hospitals of the bureau of health have been treated by administering rice polishings, with the result that the cases promptly commenced to improve, and soon recovered. Unpolished rice has now been used in public institutions in which beriberi was rife during the past month, with the result that the disease has completely disappeared.

Smallpox in Manila.

Week ended March 19. In the city of Manila 8 cases of smallpox were reported.

Cholera in the Provinces.

Week ended March 19.

Provinces.	Cases.	Deaths.
Bulacan.....	1	1
Cavite.....	1	7
Pampanga.....	9	1
Pangasinan.....	1	
Total.....	12	9

Inspection of Vessels.

March 15, the British steamship *Protesilaus*, with 89 in crew, en route from Glasgow to Seattle and Tacoma, granted a supplemental bill of health. Cargo taken on at this port inspected and passed before loading, and manifests for same signed. March 19, the British steamship *Indrapura*, with 59 in crew, granted a bill of health for New York via Iloilo and Cebu. Cargo as taken on at this port inspected and passed before loading. Manifests for same signed. Vessel partially fumigated with sulphur dioxide gas.